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INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

JANUARY 1972 - No. 130

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**INTERNATIONAL
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The International Committee of the Red Cross assumes responsibility only for material over its own signature.

Red Cross Solidarity

by H. Beer

Once we venture beyond ourselves it is impossible not to encounter others.¹

J.-G. Lossier

From Charity to Solidarity

It comes natural these days to associate the concept of solidarity with the universality of the work of the Red Cross. Serving the same ideal, respecting the same principles, carrying out similar activities, Red Cross Societies are linked to each other and belong, as it were, to a single body, the International Red Cross.

The solidarity, born of the very structure of the Red Cross movement, is also a powerful incentive, for it manifests itself in the active co-operation of all Red Cross members for the benefit of the whole. The urge which Red Cross men and Societies have to help each other beyond national boundaries has become so strong over the years that it is not too presumptuous to adopt it as a Red Cross principle. By giving the concept of charity a universal dimension for the benefit of suffering mankind, solidarity is akin to the principles of humanity and universality of which it is both the emanation and the moving force.

The concept of solidarity appeared, however, belatedly in the official texts of the deliberative bodies of the Red Cross. The relief societies formed from 1863 onwards were essentially moved by a feeling of charity which inspired their action in favour of the wounded and sick lying helplessly on the battlefield, but they were

¹ Cf. *Fellowship, the Moral Significance of the Red Cross*, ICRC, Geneva.

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not conscious of the compact which already existed between them nor of their common responsibilities. Neither in 1863 nor in 1869, at the first International Conferences of the Red Cross, did the Societies' representatives deem it necessary to strengthen the ties that united them, nor did they recognize any reciprocal obligations.

And yet, the notion of solidarity was already present in the mind, though not in the vocabulary, of the originators of the Red Cross. The first to think that National Societies might be able, in addition to the work they would have to undertake in wartime, to "render great service . . . in periods of epidemics, floods, disastrous fires, etc." was Henry Dunant; he expressed the hope that the "humanity which created them would move them to act on all occasions when their action would be useful" ¹.

The Geneva International Conference of 1863 had already considered that, in case of war, the Committees of belligerent nations could "call upon the Committees of neutral countries for assistance" ²; it had recommended that Committees and Sections of different countries should meet in international assemblies "to communicate the results of their experience and to agree on measures to be taken in the interest of the work . . ." ³. It had also declared: "The exchange of communications between the Committees of the various countries shall be made for the time being through the intermediary of the Geneva Committee" ⁴.

Henry Dunant, and Gustave Moynier after him, had faintly foreseen what the Red Cross might become; they had kindled a beacon that lit up the future, but, in 1866, leaders of Red Cross Societies and voluntary Red Cross workers believed that their first duty lay on the battlefield. The amelioration of the condition of wounded soldiers was an immense responsibility falling upon the shoulders of the Red Cross, and one which it had to discharge with limited resources and only a small number of volunteers. That was a task which could not bear additional commitments.

Similarly, how could the Red Cross, weak and diffident as it was at the time, have made an extensive joint effort to ensure that

¹ H. Dunant, *Fraternité et charité internationales en temps de Guerre*, Paris, 1866.

² Geneva Conference 1863, Art. 5.

³ Geneva Conference 1863, Art. 9.

⁴ Geneva Conference 1863, Art. 10.

it was heeded at Sadowa in 1866 or during the Schleswig-Holstein conflict and to intervene effectively when lack of communications and ignorance of the true facts regarding the war had erected barriers that were as insurmountable as the frontiers of States?

How indeed could the concept of international solidarity have entered anyone's mind when that notion was not part of the concerns of the various States, and when international relations were reduced to struggles for influence and to alliances continually being set up or denounced by States with their jealously guarded prerogatives?

The world of the eighteen-sixties and seventies was in the grip of profound forces making for deep-seated rivalries between States. This was especially true in Europe, where periods of economic prosperity and depression succeeded each other and where new States sought to establish their power within their own frontiers and without. The struggle for domination had begun between the main European powers, differentiated by their political regimes, economic systems and profoundly dissimilar collective mental habits.

In inter-State relations, questions of might were predominant and were animated by economic nationalism moving hand in hand with political nationalism.

True, progress in communications and the swift diffusion of media for the expression of thought were to encourage, at the end of the XIXth century, international intellectual contacts.

Counterbalancing the dangers caused by the upsurge of nationalism and the intensification of economic rivalries, other forces arose: international pacifist associations, philanthropic movements and Churches constituted pressure groups which enlightened public opinion and put pressure upon governments in order that they should renounce power politics and place the notion of a higher motive, the interests of the human community, before the satisfaction of national interests.

However, those movements were too disparate and not sufficiently organized to have such influence on public opinion as to engender a spirit of concord between States, or even between those same associations and movements which had not united, let alone practised solidarity in action.

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How then could those Relief Committees or Sections, small in number as they were in 1864, be expected to undertake action in common, when all the prevailing factors of the time combined to confine them within the enclosed national frame of States all too prepared to tear each others' throats?

The efforts exerted by several Relief Societies during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871 should therefore be viewed as constituting a particularly decisive event. Red Cross solidarity was for the first time visibly in action on the battlefields of France.

This first act of Red Cross solidarity⁵ was also the first step towards the taking of united action by the Relief Societies.

In 1871, the Red Cross succeeded in projecting itself out of Europe and in drawing the whole world into its orbit. While Gustave Moynier was meditating at that time on the future of the Red Cross and acknowledging the immense services it had rendered and the confidence it had inspired, he found, notwithstanding, that much still remained to be done; the Societies were not all equally developed and were in danger of foundering if they stagnated instead of seeking to become constantly better. In what way could the Societies be aroused to healthy emulation?

That outstanding Red Cross personage, Moynier, had descried the universal destiny of the Red Cross because he believed in its geographic expansion and because its development was the natural concomitant of the social progress from which it was derived.

But that advance was not to be accomplished in disorder; it was to be put into effect and made easier by a tighter union of the National Societies and through the collective affirmation of their solidarity.

Two years before the Third International Red Cross Conference of 1884, Moynier wrote: "... If all the Societies undertake quite explicitly to lend each other assistance, each one would be spurred on by the stimulus of its own responsibility; they would all feel that they should constantly be ready, either to aid sister Societies or to utilize the relief supplies that might be sent to them from outside. By banding together, they would be encouraged to do better

⁵ Cf. V. Segesvary, *The Birth of Red Cross Solidarity*, Henry Dunant Institute, Geneva, and Editions l'Age d'Homme, Lausanne, 1971.

and, from their commitments, would receive an irresistible impetus, without in any way depriving themselves of their autonomy.”⁶

The 1870–71 war thus demonstrated the timeliness of a general understanding between the Societies and furnished the favourable elements for an international agreement. Fate decided, however, that many wars and tribulations had to be undergone and countless meetings organized in order to cement together the International Red Cross and to spread the network of Red Cross solidarity throughout the world.

Ideas advanced slowly and it was only the tragedy of the First World War that irreversibly opened people’s minds to international “Red Cross responsibility”. It was true that the Balkan wars and the Russo-Turkish war had given rise to the formation of new Red Cross Societies and to the appearance of the first Red Crescent Society, with the help of the committees in neutral countries. It was also correct that the Third International Red Cross Conference, examining the lessons to be drawn from the experience of those conflicts, had already laid down the foundations of co-operation between States for the peacetime organization of transport columns for the wounded, of recruitment and training of auxiliary medical personnel, and of storage of relief supplies⁷. However, it was no less true that, shackled by a Europe which was a patchwork of States, the Red Cross, the instrument whereby the suffering caused by rabid nationalism could be cured, had not then attained world-wide status, had not become aware of its responsibilities in time of peace as in time of war, and was not imbued with a sense of having a mission to prevent wars and scourges.

In other words, the Red Cross had not reached the stage where solidarity, taking the place of the notion of charity performed by individual persons, would be manifest in joint service to the community. There had to be, unhappily, a world war with millions of dead in order for the idea of solidarity to be accepted by public opinion, for all nations to feel committed to the struggle against all sources of suffering, for it to be revealed to the Red Cross Societies that they formed *a single* Society working for the benefit of suffering humanity.

⁶ G. Moynier, *The Red Cross : Its Past and Future*, Paris, 1882, pp. 240–1.

⁷ H. Dunning, *Elements for the History of the League*, Geneva, 1969, p. 8.

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With the founding of the League of Red Cross Societies in 1919, and the institution of the International Red Cross in 1928, Red Cross solidarity was to achieve the status of a genuine system of international ethics.

Solidarity in action

The founding of the League of Red Cross Societies was closely linked to that of the League of Nations. There is a striking parallel between the two: the creation of these two international bodies was in response to the same concern to arouse and develop solidarity between nations and member societies, in order to co-ordinate their efforts against the evils to which man is heir, whether they be wars or the consequences of wars, and to establish a climate favourable to peace through better international understanding. In this connection, it is significant that President Wilson was the guiding spirit of the League of Nations just as H. P. Davison was of the League of Red Cross Societies, and that the first Societies to become members of the League were those of the five nations that formed the basis of the League of Nations.

The First World War had engendered a pressing need to do everything that had to be done to prevent the recurrence of the horrors of war; and for that, all countries had to be united within a flexible organization, motivated by the spirit of peace and eager to alleviate misery. That, too, was the overriding wish of H. P. Davison who was able to see for himself in Western Europe, Poland and Russia the tragic consequences of war for the civilian populations. Having been an actual witness of the hardships suffered by migrants and refugees, fully conscious, too, of the power represented by the Red Cross Societies, Davison was indefatigable in his efforts to get them working together in peacetime, within a federation that would unite at one and the same time their ideals and activities.

In this way, the solidarity that had been put into practice in time of war would be continued in periods of peace, for combating epidemics and disease, aiding displaced persons, and so forth.

The career of the League of Red Cross Societies was again curiously linked to that of the League of Nations. The non-participa-

tion of the United States in the work of the League of Nations and the premature eclipse from the international scene of Woodrow Wilson, the man who had been its originator, was a heavy blow to the organization. It was the same with the departure of Davison who, in his pursuit of an ambitious dream, had hoped to make of the League a vast organization capable of ensuring the protection of health and the development of social welfare, somewhat on the lines of the present World Health Organization. Quite a number of projects, far too ambitious no doubt, had to be abandoned, and Davison's hopes of seeing the League of Nations work hand in hand with the League of Red Cross Societies, could not be entirely fulfilled.

But these growing pains were inherent in the advent of a new institution which, similar to a foreign body embedded in a cell, aroused different reactions, some favourable, others less so, on the part of other institutions, and they were in no way to abate the spirit of solidarity born of the war, or hinder the international work of the member Societies of the young federation.

Europe, reeling under the shock of the holocaust of 1914-18, was the scene of long columns of exiles and displaced persons wearily trailing from one country to another. Typhus epidemics were ravaging Central Europe, and the Soviet Union, still in its infancy, was sorely tried by famine. However, it was in this sphere that the first manifestations of international solidarity were to give to the League the opportunity to win its first laurels.

Henry Dunant's wish, expressed in 1866, was about to be realized, but not without difficulties, for although the war had elicited an immediate international response, a long period of time was necessary to mobilize the support of governments and public opinion to organize a relief service as a barrier against world-wide disasters. Moreover, in 1919, the majority of the twenty-six National Societies which at that time constituted the League had little or no experience in matters of disaster relief, and therefore had, from the outset, to tackle the problem from the national rather than from the international aspect. Nevertheless, in co-operation with the ICRC, they took part in the antityphus campaign organized in Europe in 1919; from 1921 to 1924, they helped to alleviate the effects of famine in Russia; in 1923, they assisted the victims of

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earthquakes that had shaken Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Japan and Persia.

Disaster relief was not the sole sphere of Red Cross solidarity. The spirit infused by the Cannes Conference had lost none of its impetus: health had become an international, and not solely a national, problem. The sponsors of the League of Red Cross Societies, who, from its birth, had considered themselves as "citizens of the world", wished National Societies to act in an international perspective, for it was also to destroy national and other barriers and to counter economic and social inequalities that Davison and his disciples had created the League, "a platform for the whole world", destined to unite all the nations on earth. This design, as said before, was in truth over-ambitious, but it left profound traces behind it. The nations did not unite, but the National Societies gathered together in a team spirit to combat disease and to improve the well-being of peoples. Examples of this solidarity abound: the founding of public health nursing services in 1920, the management of schools of nursing, the organization of lectures, courses, and meetings where National Societies share experience, draw up common programmes and together examine situations requiring international aid.

The pioneering efforts in the campaign against tuberculosis, maternal care and child welfare, first aid instruction, and nurse training, demonstrated the enthusiastic and generous solidarity among National Societies, imbued with Wilson's idea that the advance towards a better world was irresistible. The idea of associating youth in the Red Cross movement, in 1929, was not foreign to the spirit of Red Cross solidarity. Who better than the Junior Red Cross could support the League's pioneering work in the years between the wars? The international mutual assistance programme of the Junior Red Cross is a living example of the solidarity existing among the Youth Sections of the federation's members.

The impressive aspect of this vast wave of solidarity was due also to the desire of beneficiary National Societies not to be permanent debtors. Many of them in countries straining under weighty problems resolved to join with others more fortunate than themselves in mutual assistance programmes, by some small contribution which was, for the lesson it taught, of inestimable value.

From 1919 to 1939, the League was active in many different fields, soliciting, developing and enriching the National Societies, which continued to increase in number. In 1919, the League comprised 28 members: 15 in Europe, 1 in Africa, 7 in America, 3 in Asia and 2 in Australasia. In 1934, there was twice that number.

At first dominated by European and American membership, the League's character of universality was irresistibly intensified after the Second World War, especially after many African and Asian countries had become independent. Today, there are 115 Member Societies, 31 of which are in Africa alone.

This in itself gradually made Red Cross solidarity, which had formerly been only incidental, a constant factor in the League's activities. It was fully maintained during the Second World War, in particular through the Joint Relief Commission. Entrusted with the job of transmitting, in spite of innumerable difficulties, to the Societies of the countries affected by the war, the gifts in cash and kind sent by sister Societies, the Commission succeeded in sending relief to 18 European countries. From 1940 to 1945, it ensured the distribution and forwarding of over 165,000 tons of goods representing an approximate value of 319 million Swiss francs. The total value of gifts provided by National Societies during the war was estimated at one thousand million francs.

Co-operation and Solidarity

After the conclusion of the Second World War, a new era opened for the Red Cross. Wise after the failure of the international system that prevailed between the two world wars, thrown into a new world that was not to know genuine peace any more, but obliged to find a way of living held in balance by fear, the Red Cross sought a new balance and was obliged to adapt itself, after 1945, to a world split into two powerful blocs with conflicting ideologies.

The continuation of its mission and the preparation of its future were a further challenge to Red Cross solidarity. For those who had the privilege of working for the Red Cross during the war, it was at once significant and comforting to find that the schisms opened by the war and the wild demonstrations of nationalism did not affect Red Cross work in any way. Indeed, it found in that

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distracted world in search of new paths further reasons for expanding its action. The first post-war international conferences were held in Oxford in 1946 and Stockholm in 1948, attended by representatives of former belligerent countries. For the first time, in full accord, the delegates of governments and of Red Cross Societies attempted to codify the duties and rights of the League so as to allow it to translate the fundamental Red Cross principles into acts. Solidarity thus became at last a recognized principle of Red Cross action.⁸

It is common knowledge that both at Oxford and Stockholm questions of fundamental importance were discussed: establishment of peace, violations of the Geneva Conventions, use of non-directed weapons, atomic peril, work of National Societies on behalf of prisoners of war and civilian internees, role of a neutral and independent Red Cross intermediary in political conflicts. Few were the decisions which were not unanimous, thereby demonstrating that Societies of countries violently opposed to, or not recognizing, each other had resolved to be firmly solidary with each other, in order to underline Red Cross unity and renew co-operation in all the fields where enormous needs were felt.

The post-war achievements were a lesson in solidarity; indeed, they were, too, a lesson in courage, for many National Societies did not hesitate, in their desire to co-operate in certain activities, to stand up to hostile reaction or criticism on the part of their countries' authorities.

In the ambiguous role that National Societies had to play, being at the same time independent voluntary organizations and half-nationalized auxiliaries of the Government, their solidarity in certain actions was sometimes a source of internal conflict and severe handicap. Very often the leaders of those Societies, pressed by their governments, had the courage to stand up to those authorities and remind them of their undertakings on signing the Geneva Conventions and accepting the fundamental Red Cross Principles.

⁸ Solidarity is not, however, considered to be a fundamental principle of the Red Cross. J. Pictet, in his work on the Red Cross Principles, classifies it among the organic principles, which may be regarded as rules for applying the fundamental principles guiding the Red Cross in the choice of the means by which it can achieve its aims, and for directing its steps in all the different situations with which its manifold activities may bring it face to face. Cf. J. Pictet, *Red Cross Principles*, Geneva, 1956, p. 93.

Red Cross solidarity may be understood better in the field than within the four walls of conference halls. It was practised most spectacularly during the actions for the benefit of the most wretched of unfortunates, the refugees: in Palestine, from 1948 to 1950; South Korea, from 1950 to 1952; in 1949, at the time of the repatriation of 25,000 Greek children; in 1954, in Vietnam; in 1956, in Austria, Yugoslavia, Hungary, etc. All these actions continued to expand, calling upon the League to make heavy sacrifices and sorely testing Red Cross solidarity, as was the case from 1959 to 1962 in assisting and resettling Algerian refugees in Morocco and Tunisia, and as is the case today, since 1966, in the Republic of Vietnam.

By their dread unexpectedness, natural disasters render public opinion sensitive and touch off a spontaneous, neighbourly reaction in favour of the victims. From the airlift that carried relief to flood victims on the North Sea coast in 1953, to the huge relief operation undertaken for the victims of the 1970 Peru earthquake, the League launched on average an appeal every three weeks. From 1957 to 1965, 74 relief operations roused international solidarity and enabled gifts to an estimated value of 270 million francs to be sent to victims. To this sum must be added the imposing volume of relief supplies despatched by National Societies within the framework of relief actions led by the ICRC in time of conflicts. One need only mention the action on behalf of victims of the Nigeria conflict, in which 35 National Societies and numerous private organizations sent aid evaluated at 32 million francs.

It is only to be expected that a score of Societies from so-called wealthy countries should figure among the donors in every international Red Cross relief action. But are not the contributions made, in cases of extensive disasters, by the smaller National Societies of less favoured countries more significant? Should a Society which itself receives aid from outside reduce further its slender resources in order to help others at the expense of its own work? From the practical viewpoint, this is a moot point, but one cannot, in the name of Red Cross solidarity, prevent, but only encourage, a Society's desire to go to the assistance of others. Never has the expression "sister Societies" been so meaningful as in these moving instances of Red Cross solidarity.

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But it is not only the thousands of millions of Swiss Francs provided by the Red Cross which demonstrate solidarity in the real sense of the word. There is also the swiftness with which decisions are reached, the possibility of taking action without waiting for authorization or confirmation, the National Society machinery for the reception of relief which gets better every day within the disaster belt. All these factors have given the Red Cross a privileged position recognized today by the United Nations and other organizations. It is a position requiring much effort; it is gratifying, and at the same time it is a serious matter, because it is this expanding, spontaneous and generous solidarity which has made the Red Cross into the premier world relief organization.

More important still is the co-operation between National Society members. Red Cross solidarity draws its strength from the contacts between men of different races, ideologies and tongues; it acquires all its moral value when those men unite in constructive work. Examples abound of National Societies joining their efforts in their struggle against some disaster. The action undertaken by the League in Morocco in 1959 to save from paralysis 10,000 persons poisoned by contaminated oil is unique in the annals of the League. It enabled doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and other workers from many countries to keep up their struggle for two years to snatch these unfortunate people from a lingering death and restore them to normal life.

By giving up their time, energy and enthusiasm to a common cause, by increasing their professional and human knowledge, these delegates constitute the best agents for Red Cross solidarity. On their return to their native lands, they become the enlightened apostles of the ideals and activities of the International Red Cross; and often, by eradicating prejudice and misunderstanding around them, they create a climate of international co-operation and understanding with which the Red Cross ideal is indissolubly bound.

As with relief, so it is with the development of National Societies. This task, mentioned in the Statutes of the League, has developed a great deal within the last few years owing to the large number of new Societies that have been admitted into the federation. Most of them belong to the "Third World" and need assistance in the varied activities of the Red Cross.

The working-out of a strategy for development on a world-wide scale and the active participation of National Societies in the integrated development at all levels of community services have knit together a network of international co-operation that does not distinguish between recipient or donor Societies but treats them all as equal partners within the Red Cross movement.

Although the structure of the Red Cross is difficult for someone outside it to understand, its peculiar characteristics allow it to act internationally and nationally at the same time. It is in this dual process that the work of the voluntary Red Cross members is accomplished both within and beyond their countries' boundaries, and it is from the true inter-action of these two elements which sustain and enrich each other that international Red Cross solidarity today draws its richest inspiration.

The Future of Red Cross Solidarity

Of course, it may be held that the Red Cross, despite its century-long activity, has not accomplished all that world opinion expected of it, as the unceasing succession of conflicts and disturbances since the end of the war shows. The world of today lives in the midst of violence, the most varied and unexpected forms of which are akin to real international crimes. Troubled hearts will interpret these events as the defeat of universal concord and of international solidarity for humanitarian ends. It should not be forgotten that narrow-minded nationalism is still rife in many countries and that this can limit and even dictate the national and international actions of Red Cross Societies.

Nevertheless, let us not be subdued by pessimism. Since the world began, it has been a prey to violent upheavals of varied intensity at various periods; the era of the atom bomb and of the technological revolution has only just begun, and the world has not yet assimilated its consequences or escaped the shoals that threaten it. Though the disasters, wars, genocide and all the assaults on the dignity of Man that have occurred in the twentieth century seem so appalling, it is comforting to consider that until the nineteenth century men knew nothing of what was going on outside their own

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countries and when news of some calamity reached them and struck their imagination, it was already too late to intervene.

The revolutionary changes in communications and transport, and the instantaneous transmission of news into homes and offices by television and teletypewriters have now made it possible for the population of the whole world, both in countries enjoying a high standard of living and those of the "Third World" to take part in the same events, the same problems and the same dramatic incidents. Consequently, the notion of collective responsibility has grown through a more extensive knowledge of the world. Faced with the tragedy of Nigeria, men of good will stood by their fellow-men, because they felt that they were directly involved.

Thanks to these prodigious technical means, aid can be immediately sent, and the "mass-media" revolution and changes in information techniques have stimulated further expansion of Red Cross solidarity.

But there are constant factors that can strengthen our trust in Red Cross solidarity. Since the inception of the Red Cross, its solidarity has established the moral significance of the action which is necessary for Red Cross development and is its moving force. In stimulating the act of mutual assistance, solidarity has not ceased to get stronger. More than ever, solidarity means communication between Red Cross men, it affirms man's dignity by increasing his responsibility. It means going beyond oneself, and it will always fulfil that need inherent in man's nature to be more than what he is, for himself and for others.

To doubt Red Cross solidarity would be to despair of Man.

Henrik BEER

Secretary-General of the League
of Red Cross Societies

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

The Indo-Pakistani conflict

The ICRC, which has been represented on the Indian sub-continent since August 1971, on the outbreak of hostilities sent the Governments of India and Pakistan a message which was based on the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, by which both States are bound. On 11 December the Governments of both countries replied to the message, agreeing to the discharge by the ICRC of its humanitarian mission. The Bangladesh authorities conveyed their intention of respecting the provisions of the Geneva Conventions even though they were not signatories thereto. In view of the way in which military operations were developing, the ICRC, on 15 December, reminded all parties to the conflict of their obligations under the Geneva Conventions.

Meanwhile, at ICRC Headquarters in Geneva, preparations were being made for humanitarian action to help the victims of the conflict on both sides of the front.

At the same time, delegates in Dacca took necessary measures, with the agreement of local authorities, to ensure, so far as they were able, the protection of the victims of the conflict until such time as the ICRC was able to take more far-reaching action. The "Holy Family Hospital", the Intercontinental Hotel and "Notre Dame College" were declared "neutralized zones" and placed under the supervision of the ICRC. A communication to that effect was sent to all parties to the conflict.

The "Holy Family Hospital", run by the local Red Cross which, since 11 October 1971, has been assisted by a team from the League of Red Cross Societies, has 180 beds. The Intercontinental Hotel and the "Notre Dame College" each housed several hundred persons, including some United Nations officials awaiting evacuation, and officials of the Pakistani civil authorities in Dacca.

It is appropriate to mention that according to Article 15 of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons, the creation of "neutralized zones" "is intended to shelter from the effects of war the following persons, without distinction: firstly, the wounded and sick combatants or non-combatants and, secondly, civilian persons who take no part in hostilities, and who, while they reside in the zones, perform no work of a military character". However, the authorities concerned may, at any time, give notice terminating the existence of a safety zone. Thereupon, persons residing in the zone continue to benefit from the general guarantees granted to victims of conflicts and civilian persons by the Geneva Conventions.

On 23 December 1971, Red Cross personnel on the Indian sub-continent were as follows: the ICRC had four delegates in New Delhi, two in Islamabad and two in Dacca, and there were 14 League delegates who had been on mission for several months under the cyclone victims resettlement programme. There were also eight ICRC delegates standing by in Calcutta to relieve those who had been on duty in Dacca for several weeks and to reinforce the ICRC field staff on the spot, as well as five medical teams from the Swiss and the Nordic Red Cross Societies, making a total of 42 persons. The field staff had the use of a DC 6 provided by the Swiss Government.

*

By the end of December, ICRC delegates and the members of several Red Cross Society medical teams had reached Dacca, where visits to prisoners of war had begun. In West Pakistan the ICRC delegates were then in possession of lists of prisoners of war whom they had started visiting. The Central Tracing Agency was represented in New Delhi, Dacca and Islamabad.

Khmer Republic

The ICRC medical delegate in the Khmer Republic, together with members of the Khmer Red Cross, visited several refugee centres in Phnom-Penh and elsewhere during the first fortnight of November. More than 200 patients were medically examined by the ICRC doctor and the National Society's mobile team, which visit various refugee camps in the capital each week.

Visits were paid to refugees in the Prei Phdan, Ang Snuol, Bek Chan and Battambang regions, and relief supplies (food, blankets, cloth) were distributed to nearly 1500 families.

Republic of Vietnam

ICRC delegates and doctors in the Republic of Vietnam visited the Vietnamese armed forces prisoner-of-war camp and military hospital in Pleiku on 1 and 3 December. Interviews without witnesses took place on both occasions. Previously, they had again held surgery at the Phu-My Orphanage and the Saigon Centre for Waifs and Strays, on 11 November 1971, and provided medicaments to treat those who were sick. On 13 November, they visited the Long Thanh Orphanage.

Japan

The vessel used for repatriating Koreans from Japan left Niigata on 22 October 1971, for the sixth trip, with 254 people aboard, bound for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

This was the final sailing in the second repatriation programme which, since May 1971, has conveyed 1,081 persons back to Korea.

Middle East

After more than four years of activity in the Middle East, the ICRC decided to send three of its members to pay courtesy visits to the Governments involved in events in that part of the world and to review a number of matters of concern to it. Mr. Max Petitpierre went to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr. Frédéric Siordet to Jordan,

Syria and the Lebanon, and Mr. Victor Umbricht to Israel. This threefold mission was carried out from 5 to 17 December 1971.

In the *Arab Republic of Egypt*, Mr. Petitpierre was received by the Prime Minister, Mr. M. Fawzi, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. M. Ghaleb, the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Mr. A. K. Hassouna, and the President of the Egyptian Red Crescent, Dr. A. Sallam.

Jordan.—Mr. Siordet was granted audience by H. M. King Hussein and he met the Prime Minister, Mr. A. Lozi, the Minister of the Court, Mr. A. Toukan, the Minister for Reconstruction and Development, Dr. S. Ammr, the Minister of Health, Dr. M. Bechin, the Minister of the Interior, Mr. I. Habashne, the President of the Parliament, Mr. K. Oreikat, the Assistant Chief of General Staff, General S. Zeid, and the President of the Jordan Red Crescent, Dr. A. Abu-Gura.

Mr. Siordet then went to *Syria*, where he met the Minister of the Interior, Mr. A. Zaza, the Minister of Health, Dr. M. Saada, the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. A. El Khani, and the President of the Syrian Red Crescent, Dr. A. C. Chatti.

Lastly, in the *Lebanon*, Mr. Siordet was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. S. Frangié, the President of the Council, Mr. S. Salam, the Minister for National Education, Mr. N. Haidar, the Commander-in-Chief of the Lebanese Armed Forces, General S. Ghanem, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. K. Abouhamad, and the Minister of Health, Mr. E. Bitar. Mr. Siordet also spoke with the President of the Lebanese Red Cross, Mrs. A. F. Issa-el-Koury, and the Assistant Commissaire-General of UNWRA, Mr. Callow.

Meanwhile, Mr. Umbricht, who had gone to *Israel*, was received by the Head of State, Mr. Z. Shazar, and he met the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Y. Allon, the Minister of Defence, General M. Dayan, the Chief of Police, Mr. S. Hillel, the Administrative Co-ordinator for the Occupied Territories, General S. Gazit, the Army Chief-of-Staff, General S. Lahat, the Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. G. Raphael, and the leaders of the Magen David Adom.

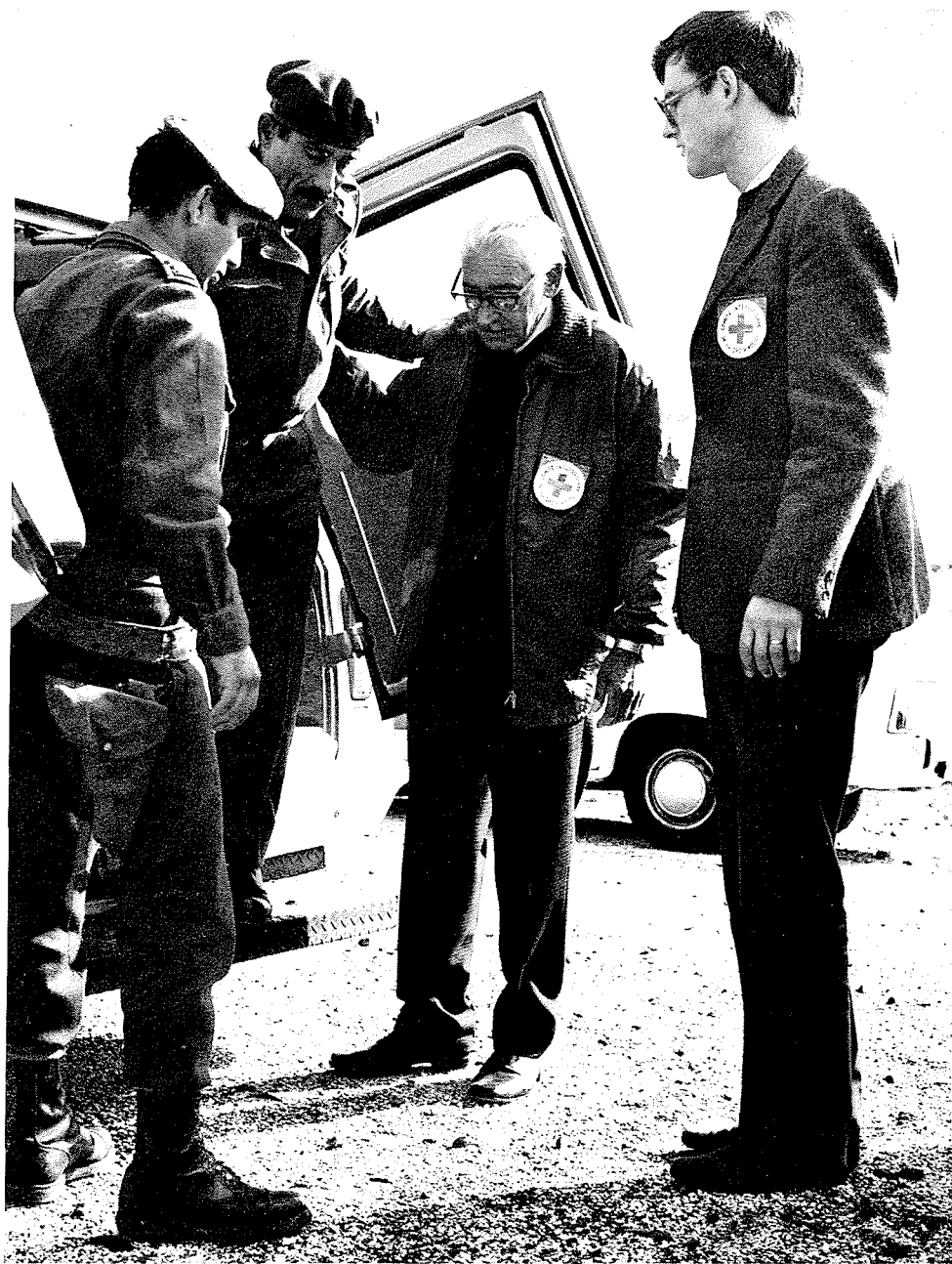


Photo Dick-ICRC

Repatriation of an injured Syrian prisoner of war : he has been accompanied to the cease-fire line by the ICRC delegate in Israel (*right*) and he is being welcomed by the ICRC delegate in Syria (*centre*).



BAHRAIN :

The anti-cholera campaign being carried out by the Red Crescent.



PANAMA :

Members of the Junior Red Cross taking part in a " Survival exercise " in the jungle.

Release and repatriation of Prisoners of War.—Several prisoner-of-war repatriation operations took place under the auspices of the ICRC during the first half of December.

Firstly, on 9 December, one Syrian prisoner of war, wounded and captured in May 1970, after having received the necessary medical attention, was freed by the Israeli authorities and repatriated. This operation took place at Ahmadia on the cease-fire line, where the ICRC delegate in Israel had accompanied the prisoner who was then met by the ICRC in Syria.¹

Two repatriation operations took place simultaneously on 15 December. An injured Israeli soldier, taken prisoner of war by the Egyptian forces in June 1970, was repatriated after having spent 18 months under treatment in a Cairo hospital. Four Egyptian prisoners of war and 6 military auxiliaries, who were granted prisoner-of-war status, were taken back to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

These prisoners of war had been regularly visited by ICRC delegates throughout their captivity.

Suez Canal Crossings.—On 17 November 1971, a transfer operation took place under ICRC auspices at El Qantara on the Suez Canal. Several doctors were among the 14 persons thereby enabled to return from the Arab Republic of Egypt to the occupied territory of Gaza-Sinai while a nurse was able to cross to the west bank of the Suez Canal.

Bahrain

In November, Mr. P. Gaillard, ICRC Assistant-Director, went to Bahrain, in his capacity as representative of the ICRC and of the League, to examine, with the authorities there and the Red Crescent Society, the conditions which had to be met for Bahrain to accede to the Geneva Conventions and for the recognition of the new National Society.

The Red Crescent Society of Bahrain started operating two years ago and has already attained very heartening levels of activity and development ¹, but there are still a certain number of

¹ *Plate.*

formalities to be fulfilled for recognition by the ICRC and admission into the League of Red Cross Societies.

In the course of his journey, Mr. Gaillard also stopped some time in Beirut, Kuwait and Cairo in order to get in touch with the National Societies in each of those places. There were two questions that needed to be studied with them and with the appropriate educational authorities: one was that of the introduction and use, in the primary schools of the countries concerned, of the school textbook prepared by the ICRC, and the other the expansion of the teaching of international humanitarian law in universities, in accordance with a resolution on that subject adopted at the recently held Mexico Conference. The suggestions of the ICRC were favourably greeted.

Africa

Visits to places of detention

In South Africa, the ICRC delegate in November 1971 visited detainees sentenced for political reasons, held in various places of detention.

In the Cape Verde Islands, the ICRC delegate went with the chief medical officer of the ICRC to a place of detention where he visited Angolan detainees. The ICRC doctor, on this occasion, examined some of the prisoners.

In both areas, delegates spoke to prisoners without witnesses. The reports drawn up by the ICRC are sent to the detaining powers concerned.

A previous series of visits to the Cape Verde Islands was carried out in February 1969, and to South Africa in November 1970.

Burundi and Rwanda. Early in December 1971, the ICRC delegate in East Africa visited persons who were being detained for political reasons or offences. He spoke with the prisoners of his choice without witnesses, and his report is submitted to the detaining authorities by the ICRC.

The ICRC last visited these two countries in May 1971.

Bolivia

The ICRC delegate and doctor continued their mission to Bolivia, which started last August, by once again visiting various places of detention in the capital and the rest of the country. Relief supplies, some of which had been sent from Geneva and some of which were purchased on the spot, were distributed to prisoners during these visits. Following normal practice, ICRC reports are being submitted to the detaining authorities.

Colombia

The ICRC regional delegate for South America was in Colombia from 2 to 23 December 1971. He gave two talks, one at the " Universidad Externado de Colombia " and the other to the General Staff of the Armed Forces. He also met the Ministers of National Education, Justice and Defence and contacted the National Red Cross Society both at its headquarters in Bogotá and in various departmental and local committees throughout the country.

During his stay, the ICRC delegate visited about a dozen places of detention where he checked on the use made of the medicaments sent by the ICRC for the benefit of the detainees.

Ecuador

The ICRC regional delegate for South America was from 7 to 26 November 1971 in Ecuador, where he got in touch with National Society leaders and Junior Red Cross officials. During visits to different places of detention in Ecuador, he was able to confirm that medicaments sent by the ICRC for the detainees had been utilized. Lectures on the Red Cross and international humanitarian law were delivered at the Universities of Quito and Cuenca and to general staff officers of the Ecuadorean armed forces. The regional delegate also had talks with government authorities, in particular the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Education and Health.

Northern Ireland

As arranged with the Government of Northern Ireland, the International Committee of the Red Cross has just made a further round of visits to the different places of detention in Ulster. The Red Cross team of two delegates, one of whom is a doctor, visited Crumlin Road Prison, Belfast, on 14 December, Long Kesh Internment camp, near Lisburn, on 15 December, and the transit centre on board the depot ship "Maidstone" in Belfast harbour on 16 December. In all those establishments, the delegates were able freely to carry out their task and to converse privately with the internees and detainees of their own choosing. As usual, the ICRC reports on these visits are being sent direct to the Government of Northern Ireland.

A further visit by delegates of the ICRC has been arranged for the month of April 1972.

*IN GENEVA***Signature of an agreement between the EEC and the ICRC**

On 21 December 1971, a brief ceremony took place at the headquarters of the ICRC in the presence of Mr. Naville, President of that institution, and Mr. Jaqstaidt, the Permanent Delegate of the European Economic Community to the International Organizations in Geneva. The occasion was the official signature of the agreement on the supply, by the EEC, of rice and cereals as emergency food supplies for Bengali refugees in India. The December 1971 issue of the *International Review* mentioned the generous gift of 43,000 tons of rice and 7,000 tons of cereals which had, since October, been shipped in seven vessels from European ports to Calcutta.

Guests of the ICRC

On 1 December 1971, H. E. Mr. Hubert Maga, President of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Dahomey, who was visiting Geneva, called at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr. Maga and several high officials of his country were received by Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC, and some members of the International Committee and the Administration. He then went on to visit the Central Tracing Agency.

Accession to the Geneva Conventions

In its issue of October 1971, the *International Review* stated that 129 States were parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. The Federal Political Department in Berne recently informed

the International Committee of the Red Cross that on 30 November 1971 a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrein had been received by the Swiss Authorities stating that the State of Bahrein had acceded to the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949.

This accession, to take effect on 30 May 1972, will bring the number of States bound by the said Conventions to 130.

New Publicity Posters

The ICRC has published a series of 16 posters (100 cm × 70 cm) for National Societies. They illustrate current activities of the ICRC throughout the world on the following themes: *protecting, feeding, clothing, nursing, tracing, reuniting, developing the law, educating and work for peace.*

The posters are printed on extra-strong material and may be displayed several times over. They are packed in a special cardboard cylinder which can be easily sent through the post. The complete set is available from the ICRC at the price of Sw. Fr. 80.—.

Where have Relief Consignments been sent in 1971 ?

*We publish below a list of the relief consignments made or handled
by the ICRC from January to December 1971.*

ASIA

Ceylon	<i>Amount in Swiss francs</i>
<i>June</i> Remittance to the Ceylon Red Cross for purchase of clothing for detainees	40,000
<i>September</i> Remittance to Ceylon Red Cross for purchases for detainees (with the help of gifts from the Norwegian, British, Luxembourg, Canadian and Liechtenstein Red Cross Societies)	15,000

GRUNK

4 relief consignments, totalling more than 4 tons of medicaments, medical dressings, etc., were sent between January and March 80,000
Air freight costs were Sw. fr. 38,600.

India

<i>October</i> Sea consignment to the Indian Red Cross of 100 tons of powdered whole milk for refugees (gift from Swiss Government)	550,000
<i>October- November- December</i> Sea consignment to the Indian Red Cross of 4,654 tons of flour and 20,144 tons of rice (gift from the European Economic Community)	23,000,000
<i>December</i> Air consignment to the Indian Red Cross of 2.5 million Mexaform tablets	175,000
<i>December</i> Air consignment to the Indian Red Cross of 1.5 tons of medicaments	31,600

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Indonesia

*Amount in
Swiss francs*

<i>November</i>	Sea consignment to the Indonesian Red Cross of 474 kg of medicaments and miscellaneous supplies, and 7 microscopes	22,800
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Khmer Republic

<i>June</i>	Direct consignment from the Danish Red Cross to the Khmer Red Cross of 15,000 phials of Streptomycin	18,000
<i>August</i>	Air consignment of 96 kg of antibiotics	5,200
<i>November</i>	Sea consignment of 1,296 kg of medicaments and medical dressings (partly paid for with the balance of funds available as a result of the League/ICRC appeal of June 1970)	41,600
<i>November</i>	Sea consignment of 6,742 kg of sweetened powdered milk (gift from the Swiss Government)	20,500
<i>December</i>	Sea consignment to the Khmer Red Cross of 3.5 tons of medicaments and dressings	70,000

Laos

<i>August</i>	Air consignment to the Lao Red Cross of children's clothing (gift from the Canadian Red Cross)	22,000
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Pakistan

<i>April</i>	5,000 phials of Penicillin to the Pakistan Red Cross	9,500
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Pathet-Lao

<i>July</i>	Air consignment of 412 kg of medicaments and medical dressings (including a gift of Streptomycin from the Danish Red Cross).	13,000
<i>November</i>	Air consignment of 389 kg of medical supplies Both this and the preceding consignment were transmitted to the recipient through the ICRC delegation in Laos.	11,000

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Republic of Vietnam

*Amount in
Swiss francs*

<i>March-April</i>	Various medicaments to the ICRC delegation for the orphanage in Saigon	13,900
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AFRICA

Cameroon

<i>June</i>	Air consignment to the ICRC delegation of 5 first-aid kits (to be passed on to various National Societies)	460
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Dahomey

<i>June</i>	Sea consignment to the Dahomey Red Cross of 2 sewing machines and 250 kg of cloth . .	3,500
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Nigeria

<i>May</i>	Rehabilitation equipment for the Nigerian Red Cross	180
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RGAE

<i>July</i>	Medicaments to the RGAE Health Service in Kinshasa for Portuguese prisoners	160
<i>September</i>	Clothing from the Portuguese Red Cross to Portuguese prisoners in RGAE hands	not specified

Sudan

<i>June</i>	Air consignment from Geneva of 20 first-aid kits	1,900
<i>August</i>	Sea consignment of 300 tons of powdered milk (gift from the European Economic Community)	1,200,000

Togo

<i>June</i>	Air consignment to the Togolese Red Cross of 5 first-aid kits	460
<i>June</i>	Sea consignment of 3 sewing machines and 430 kg of cloth	5,800

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LATIN AMERICA

		<i>Amount in Swiss francs</i>
Bolivia		
<i>August- December</i>	5 relief consignments totalling 650 kg of medicaments and medical dressings and 300 blankets, following events in that country	23,200
Colombia		
<i>September</i>	Air consignment to the Colombian Red Cross of 210 kg of medicaments	14,500
Ecuador		
<i>June</i>	Air consignment of 114 kg of medicaments to the Ecuadorian Red Cross	4,000
Guatemala		
<i>September</i>	3 tents and equipment to the Guatemalan Red Cross	3,500
<i>December</i>	250 kg of baby-food to the Guatemalan Red Cross	1,200
Guyana		
<i>April</i>	Sea consignment of 2 tons of powdered whole milk	11,000
<i>October</i>	Sea consignment of 1 ton of powdered whole milk	5,500
	This milk is to be distributed in various institutions (school for handicapped children, convalescent home, etc.) by the Guyana Red Cross.	
Haiti		
<i>May</i>	Air consignment to the Haiti Red Cross of 15 medical dressing kits	1,400
<i>May</i>	Sea consignment to the Haiti Red Cross of 2 tons of powdered whole milk and a Land Rover	31,000
<i>October</i>	Air consignment to the Haiti Red Cross of 15 medical dressing kits	1,400

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

		<i>Amount in Swiss francs</i>
Honduras		
<i>October</i>	15 first-aid kits to the Honduran Red Cross	2,500
Panama		
<i>December</i>	250 kg of baby-food to the Panamanian Red Cross	1,200
Trinidad and Tobago		
<i>March</i>	1 ton of powdered whole milk	5,500
Venezuela		
<i>December</i>	250 kg of baby-food and 1 ton of powdered milk to the Venezuelan Red Cross	6,700

EUROPE

Greece		
<i>February</i>	Gift of clothing from the Italian Red Cross to the Hellenic Red Cross	16,000
Hungary		
<i>January-December</i>	Medicaments to the Hungarian Red Cross . .	16,500
Poland		
<i>January-December</i>	Medicaments to the Polish Red Cross	7,300
Rumania		
<i>January-December</i>	Medicaments	4,300

MIDDLE EAST

Israel and occupied territories		
<i>February</i>	Consignment, from Geneva, of 265 kg of proteins (for Nazareth Hospital)	1,500
<i>June</i>	3,600 tons of cereals for the needy in Gaza and Sinai (gift from the European Economic Community)	3,600,000

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

		<i>Amount in Swiss francs</i>
<i>June</i>	8 tons of cleaning products (gift from the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany)	15,000
<i>August</i>	300 tons of foodstuffs, blankets and cloth (gift from the Red Crescent of the ARE) to needy people in the Sinai	not specified
<i>October</i>	Consignment, from Geneva, of 10,000 ball-point pens for detainees	1,300
<i>October</i>	3 typewriters for the Red Crescent in Jenin . .	1,000
<i>October</i>	250 tons of foodstuffs and cloth (gift from the Red Crescent of the ARE) to the people of the Gaza strip	not specified
<i>October-November</i>	20 tons of powdered whole milk to be distributed in maternity homes, kindergartens and other social institutions on the West Bank (gift from the Swiss Government)	110,000
<i>November</i>	One ton of baby-food for a children's home in Jerusalem	5,000
Jordan		
<i>March</i>	50 tons of powdered milk, 25 tons of biscuits and a generator were handed over to the Jordan Red Crescent	250,000
<i>November</i>	50 tons of powdered milk, 10 tons of biscuits, blankets and clothing were handed over to the Jordan Red Crescent	230,000
Lebanon		
<i>September</i>	5 tons of powdered milk and 300 bales of clothing were handed over to the Lebanese Red Cross	25,000
" Palestine Red Crescent "		
<i>September</i>	10 tons of powdered milk, 5 tons of biscuits and a generator were handed over to the " Palestine Red Crescent "	50,000
<i>December</i>	25 tons of powdered milk and 230 bales of clothing were handed over to the " Palestine Red Crescent "	120,000

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Syria	<i>Amount in Swiss francs</i>
<i>March</i> 564 tons of wheat flour to the Syrian Red Crescent for displaced persons from the Golan Heights (gift from the Swiss Government) . .	320,000
<i>March</i> 112 tons of powdered milk for displaced persons from the Golan Heights (gift from the EEC)	560,000
<i>May</i> Consignment, from Geneva, of 750 kg of medicaments	30,000
<i>May</i> 4,428 tons of cereals for displaced persons from the Golan Heights (gift from EEC)	4,500,000
<i>May</i> 20 tons of cleaning products (gift from the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany)	35,000
<i>June</i> 100 tons of powdered milk to the Syrian Red Crescent	400,000

Yemen Arab Republic

<i>June</i> Consignment, from Geneva, of 40 kg of medicaments for the Turba Hospital	2,000
<i>November</i> Consignment, from Geneva, of 2 tons of cheese for the Taiz Hospital	8,000

People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

<i>September</i> Consignment, to the Aden Red Crescent, of 20 tons of powdered whole milk for needy families (gift from the Swiss Government) . .	110,000
<i>October</i> Air consignment of anti-hemophilic serum to the Aden Red Crescent	750

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

MEETING OF INFORMATION EXPERTS

Two working parties, composed of Red Cross information experts from seven European National Societies and representatives of the League, the International Committee and the Henry Dunant Institute, met in Hamburg in November 1971. The purpose of the meeting was to study the latest methods for evaluating public opinion as well as audio-visual techniques.

In accordance with the wishes of the Second Meeting of Heads of Information, held in 1970, the working parties were organized by the Federal Republic of Germany and the League and held in the Hamburg Studio, a firm specializing in the production of audio-visual equipment.

The working party on *public opinion polls* was chaired by Count Karl-Georg von Stackelberg, a former president of the World Association for Public Opinion Research. The participants considered ways and means of drawing up a standard questionnaire for use by National Societies.

The working party on *audio-visual techniques* visited the Hamburg Studio installations and was shown the Super 8 Optical and Electronic Systems, Electronic Video Recording, Video Cassette Recording, and Video discs. While it was agreed that there was no urgency about providing Red Cross Societies with equipment which was comparatively costly, it was nevertheless considered necessary that they should keep abreast of technical developments and be prepared to adapt their information or training equipment to such media as might be available to public authorities, educational institutions and other such bodies.

The participants made a detailed study of the methods used by the Regional Committee of the Red Cross at Hamburg in the recruitment of members and fund-raising.

FIRST TECHNICAL MEETING ON RED CROSS INFORMATION IN LATIN AMERICA

From 25 to 28 October 1971, Bogotá was the venue of the First Technical Meeting of Latin American Red Cross Society Heads of Information and Public Relations, organized jointly by the Colombian Red Cross and the League. The meeting was attended by delegates from ten South American National Red Cross Societies, public relations specialists and representatives of the Canadian and Spanish Red Cross Societies, who attended as observers, as well as members of the League's Information Bureau.

This meeting was held at the request of the Second Meeting of Heads of Information of National Societies, held in Geneva in June 1970. Following a recommendation of the IXth Inter-American Red Cross Conference (Managua, Nicaragua, December 1970), the agenda included discussion of all aspects of Red Cross information, fund-raising and membership recruitment.

The main decision taken at the meeting concerned the creation of a permanent group of experts comprising representatives of the Colombian, Ecuadorean, Guatemalan and El Salvador National Red Cross Societies. It will be responsible for planning and co-ordinating the production of ideas and information material specifically for Latin America. It will also encourage National Societies with good information facilities to help Societies in neighbouring countries which have less well-developed facilities. The overall co-ordinator will be the League's Latin America delegate, Mr. Ricardo Bermudez, and a public relations expert from the Spanish Red Cross will advise the group.

The delegates examined the problem of the relative shortage of information material for the general public in Latin America. The regional co-production of films and other forms of advertising material should help to bridge this gap.

Panama

It is not too late for us to mention a very interesting initiative taken by the Panamanian Red Cross Society. It was, to our knowledge, the first experiment by a Latin American National Society. *Operation Survival* was organized along the lines of the instructions of the Tropical Survival School.

This operation, which took place last year, involved three five-day exercises in which three groups of three to five members of the Junior Red Cross took part.¹ The first two days of each exercise were devoted to theoretical preparation and the last three days to practical exercises. On the third day, the volunteers, whose main equipment was a radio, first-aid kits and the Mae Wests which they were wearing, were left to their own devices in the middle of a river. After reaching one of the banks in bush country, the team had to fend for themselves for three days. They had to build a shelter, with a fire, seek and prepare their own food, protect themselves from dangerous animals, set up a radio station and make preparations to send out distress signals if need be.

Each team had a leader and at certain times was in radio contact with the base. On the fifth day, the most important test was to find their way home.

It will be realized that such an exercise demands decision-making ability and understanding of mutual assistance. The young people of the Panamanian Red Cross showed that they possessed those qualities and knew how to put them into practice in the exceptional circumstances we have just described.

¹ *Plate.*

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN TIME OF ARMED CONFLICT

The United Nations General Assembly, the 26th session of which was held in New York from 21 September to 22 December 1971, examined several matters of direct interest to the ICRC. We reproduce below the texts of the three resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the item entitled " Respect for human rights in armed conflicts ". The first two resolutions refer to the work of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law which was held in Geneva from 24 May to 12 June 1971 and to the preparations currently being made by the ICRC for a second session of the Conference of Government Experts to be held in May 1972. The third resolution concerns the Protection of Journalists on Dangerous Missions, the discussion of which is to be continued by the Human Rights Commission in 1972.

Furthermore, in resolution 2816 (XXVI) on " Assistance in cases of natural disaster and other disaster situations ", the General Assembly adopted the proposals made by the Economic and Social Council¹; the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to appoint a Disaster Relief Co-ordinator with an office in Geneva and who would be responsible *inter alia* for co-ordinating the relief activities of the United Nations and the various intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, especially the International Red Cross.

¹ See *International Review*, August 1971.

RESOLUTION 2852 (XXVI)

Respect for human rights in armed conflicts

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its determination to continue all efforts to eliminate the threat or use of force in international relations, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, and to bring about general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and reaffirming its desire to secure full observance of human rights applicable in all armed conflicts pending the earliest possible termination of such conflicts,

Reaffirming that, in order effectively to guarantee human rights, all States should devote their efforts to averting the unleashing of aggressive wars and armed conflicts that violate the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the successive resolutions that have been adopted by the United Nations relating to human rights in armed conflicts, in particular General Assembly resolutions 2652 (XXV) of 3 December 1970, 2674 (XXV) and 2678 (XXV) of 9 December 1970, and 2707 (XXV) of 14 December 1970, and taking into account relevant resolutions of international conferences of the Red Cross,

Deeply concerned over the terrible suffering that armed conflicts continue to inflict upon combatants and civilians, particularly through the use of cruel means and methods of warfare and through inadequate restraints in defining military objectives,

Desiring to ensure the effective application of all existing rules relating to human rights in armed conflicts, as well as the development of these rules, and aware that progress in this regard will depend upon the political readiness and willingness of Member States,

Conscious that, although negotiations are going on in the field of disarmament concerning general and complete disarmament and concerning the limitation and elimination of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, those deliberations do not deal with the question of

prohibiting or restricting the use of other methods of warfare that are cruel, such as napalm, or that indiscriminately affect civilians and combatants,

Noting the comments by Governments¹ on the reports of the Secretary-General on respect for human rights in armed conflicts,²

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General³ on the comprehensive discussions undertaken at the Conference of Government Experts convened in 1971 by the International Committee of the Red Cross on the problem of reaffirmation and development of the international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts,

Having taken cognizance of the report prepared by the International Committee of the Red Cross on the work of the Conference of Government Experts,

Welcoming the decision of the International Committee of the Red Cross to convene in 1972 a second session of the Conference of Government Experts with broader participation to include all the States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949⁴ and to circulate in advance of that session a series of draft protocols,

Stressing the importance of further close co-operation between the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross,

Determined to continue its efforts to achieve better application of existing rules relating to armed conflicts, as well as the reaffirmation and development of these rules,

1. Calls again upon all parties to any armed conflict to observe the rules laid down in the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907,⁵ the Geneva Protocol of 1925,⁶ the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other humanitarian rules applicable in armed conflicts, and invites those States that have not yet done so to adhere to these instruments ;

2. Reaffirms that persons participating in resistance movements and freedom fighters in southern Africa and in territories under colonial and alien domination and foreign occupation who are strug-

¹ A/8313.

² A/7720 and A/8052.

³ A/8370.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75 (1950), Nos. 970-973.

⁵ Carnegie Endowment for International Peace *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

⁶ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.

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gling for their liberation and self-determination should, in case of arrest, be treated as prisoners of war in accordance with the principles of the Hague Convention of 1907 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949 ;

3. Invites the International Committee of the Red Cross to continue the work that was begun with the assistance of government experts in 1971 and, taking into account all relevant United Nations resolutions on human rights in armed conflicts, to devote special attention, among the questions to be taken up :

(a) To the need to ensure better application of existing rules relating to armed conflicts, particularly the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, including the need for strengthening the system of protecting Powers contained in such instruments ;

(b) To the need for a reaffirmation and development of relevant rules, as well as other measures to improve the protection of the civilian population during armed conflicts, including legal restraints and restrictions on certain methods of warfare and weapons that have proved particularly perilous to civilians, as well as arrangements for humanitarian relief ;

(c) To the need to evolve norms designed to increase the protection of persons struggling against colonial and alien domination, foreign occupation and racist régimes :

(d) To the need for development of the rules concerning the status, protection and humane treatment of combatants in international and non-international armed conflicts and the question of guerrilla warfare ;

(e) To the need for additional rules regarding the protection of the wounded and sick ;

4. Expresses the hope that the second session of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, to be convened in 1972 by the International Committee of the Red Cross, will result in specific conclusions and recommendations for action at the government level ;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in line with paragraph 126 of his report on respect for human rights in armed conflicts,¹ to prepare

¹ A/8052.

as soon as possible, with the help of governmental qualified consultant experts, a report on napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use ;

6. Further calls upon all States to disseminate widely information and instruction concerning human rights in armed conflicts and to take all the necessary measures to ensure full observance by their own armed forces of humanitarian rules applicable in armed conflicts ;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to encourage the study and teaching of principles of respect for human rights applicable to armed conflicts by the means at his disposal ;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session on the results of the Conference of Government Experts and any other relevant developments ;

9. Decides to inscribe an item entitled " Human rights in armed conflicts " on the provisional agenda of the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session and to consider it in all its aspects.

RESOLUTION 2853 (XXVI)

Respect for human rights in armed conflicts

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2674 (XXV), 2675 (XXV), 2676 (XXV) and 2677 (XXV) of 9 December 1970,

Noting also that the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross held at Istanbul in 1969 adopted resolution XIII concerning the reaffirmation and development of the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts,¹

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on respect for human rights in armed conflicts,² concerning in particular

¹ See A/7720, annex I, section D.

² A/8313.

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the report of the first session of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts, convened by the International Committee of the Red Cross, which met in Geneva from 24 May to 12 June 1971, as well as the International Committee's report on that Conference,

Emphasizing that effective protection for human rights in situations of armed conflict depends primarily on universal respect for humanitarian rules,

Recognizing that existing humanitarian rules relating to armed conflicts do not in all respects meet the need of contemporary situations and that it is therefore necessary to strengthen the procedure for implementing these rules and to develop their substance,

Welcoming the decision of the International Committee of the Red Cross to convene a second session of the Conference of Government Experts with the task of reaching agreement on the wording of various texts to facilitate discussion at a future diplomatic conference, and noting that all States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949¹ have been invited to participate.

Affirming that the successful development of humanitarian rules applicable in armed conflicts requires the negotiation of instruments which can be effectively implemented and which command the widest possible support,

Emphasizing the importance of continued close collaboration between the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross,

1. Reiterates its call upon all parties to any armed conflict to observe the rules laid down in the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907,² the Geneva Protocol of 1925,³ the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other humanitarian rules applicable in armed conflicts, and invites those States which have not yet done so to adhere to those instruments ;

United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75 (1950), Nos. 970-973.

² Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

³ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.

2. Welcomes the progress made by the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, as shown in its report, in considering the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, as regards :

- (a) Protection of the wounded and the sick ;
- (b) Protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts ;
- (c) Rules applicable in guerrilla warfare ;
- (d) Protection of civilian population against dangers of hostilities ;
- (e) Strengthening of the guarantees afforded by international humanitarian law for non-military civil defence organizations ;
- (f) Rules relative to the behaviour of combatants ;
- (g) Measures intended to reinforce the implementation, in armed conflicts, of existing international humanitarian law ;

3. Expresses the hope that the second session of the Conference of Government Experts will make recommendations for the further development of international humanitarian law in this field, including, as appropriate, draft protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, for subsequent consideration at one or more plenipotentiary diplomatic conferences ;

4. Calls upon States parties to the existing international instruments to review, as a matter of priority, any reservations they may have made to these instruments ;

5. Requests the Secretary-General :

(a) To transmit his latest report, together with any further observation received from Governments as well as the records of relevant discussions and resolutions of the General Assembly, to the International Committee of the Red Cross for consideration, as appropriate, by the Conference of Government Experts at its second session ;

(b) To report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution :

6. Decides to consider this question again, in all its aspects, at its twenty-seventh session.

RESOLUTION 2854 (XXVI)

**Protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions
in areas of armed conflict**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2444 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 concerning, in particular, the studies to be undertaken by the Secretary-General in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other appropriate international organizations with regard, inter alia, to the need for additional humanitarian international conventions or for other appropriate legal instruments to ensure the better protection of civilians, prisoners and combatants in all armed conflicts,

Recalling also its resolution 2673 (XXV) of 9 December 1970, in which it expressed its conviction that there was a need for an additional humanitarian international instrument to ensure the better protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions, particularly in areas where an armed conflict was taking place,

Being aware that the provisions of the humanitarian conventions at present in force do not cover some categories of journalists engaged in dangerous missions and do not correspond to their present needs,

Noting Commission on Human Rights resolution 15 (XXVII) of 24 March 1971, in which the Commission expressed its conviction that there was an urgent need to examine the question of the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions, both on humanitarian grounds and in order to enable journalists with due respect for the law to seek, receive and impart information fully, objectively and faithfully in the spirit of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights concerning freedom of information,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1597 (L) of 21 May 1971, in which the Council decided to transmit to the General Assembly a preliminary draft international convention on the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions submitted to it by the Commission on Human Rights, as well as the relevant records of

the Commission on Human Rights and of the Economic and Social Council, as a valid basis for the discussions of the Assembly at its twenty-sixth session,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General containing the preliminary draft international convention on the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions, the observations received from Governments concerning the preliminary draft and the observations of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, which was held at Geneva at the invitation of the International Committee of the Red Cross,¹

Noting with appreciation the report of the Working Group established by the Secretary-General, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 15 (XXVII), and the annexed draft protocol relating to the composition and functions of the International Professional Committee for the Protection of Journalists Engaged in Dangerous Missions referred to in article 3 of the aforementioned preliminary draft convention,²

Having considered the observations submitted by some Member States in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 15 (XXVII), including the observations of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, convened by the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as the discussions on the item and the alternate draft convention submitted during the debate at the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly,

1. Believes that it is necessary to adopt a convention providing for the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions in areas of armed conflict ;

2. Invites the Economic and Social Council to request the Commission on Human Rights to consider as a matter of priority at its twenty-eighth session the draft convention contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1597 (L), taking into consideration : the

¹ A/8371 and Add. 1-3.

² A/8438 and Add. 1.

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draft convention submitted by Australia,¹ the United States working paper² and the observations of Governments,³ as well as all subsequent documents including the annexed draft protocol prepared by the Working Group in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 15 (XXVII) ;

3. Further requests the Commission on Human Rights to transmit its report to the next session of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, to be convened by the International Committee of the Red Cross, in order that the International Committee may submit its observations to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session ;

4. Invites Governments to transmit their observations on the part of the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its twenty-eighth session relating to this item ;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit the replies received and an analytic report on those replies to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session ;

6. Decides to examine this item as a matter of the highest priority at its twenty-seventh session, taking into consideration the recommendations transmitted to the Assembly by the Economic and Social Council.

¹ A/C.3/L.1902.

² A/C.3/L.1903.

³ A/8371 and Add. 1.

PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Council of Europe — Consultative Assembly

Realizing that, twenty years after the conclusion of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, new ideas were emerging and new techniques were being developed, creating situations which until recently had been unforeseeable, the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe resolved to convene a Parliamentary Conference on Human Rights. Having no direct legislative powers of its own, it considered it necessary to convene such a conference—which was held in Vienna in October 1971—in order that a confrontation, at parliamentary level, of the views of legislators from Council of Europe member States might allow basic choices to be made in the matter, and thus determine the essential items of an “outline programme” for the years ahead.

It should be pointed out that this was the first time that European parliamentarians, taking as their starting point what had already been achieved under the European Convention on Human Rights of 4 November 1950, had an opportunity to discuss, at a conference specially convened for the purpose, what steps should be taken, both at national and European level, to consolidate what had been achieved so far and to reinforce and develop it by means of a joint short-term and middle-term legislative programme.

There is a close relationship between the ICRC's present work on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts and the studies on human rights. Indeed, there is a growing tendency to consider that the purpose of international law is to ensure a minimum of safeguards and humane treatment for all men in time of peace as in time of war. This is why the ICRC, when invited to be represented at

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the Conference by an observer, appointed Mr. Antoine Martin, Assistant Head of the Legal Division, to fulfil that function.

The following four themes were submitted to the Conference for study:

- “What rights should be protected?”.
- “Whose rights are to be protected?”.
- “How can the existing protection of human rights be strengthened?”.
- “How can protection of human rights be prevented from being abused?”.

Each of the themes was dealt with by a triangular approach: (a) an expert submitted an introductory report defining possible alternatives; (b) a parliamentary rapporteur not a member of the Consultative Assembly set forth the national experience and a political standpoint in the field concerned, so as to permit a survey of the alternatives mentioned in the introductory report; (c) a parliamentary rapporteur who was a member of the Consultative Assembly drew conclusions from the previous two reports and from the discussion, from a European viewpoint.

At the close of the proceedings of the Conference, a short- and middle-term programme of the Council of Europe in the human rights field was established. The programme was divided into four sections: I. Rights to be protected; II. Persons benefiting from human rights; III. System of protection for human rights; IV. Possible abuses in the protection of human rights.

Each of the sections comprises a number of points which, in the opinion of the Conference, should be carefully studied. The following may be mentioned:

- The right to life. When does it begin? When does it end? (Desirability of holding an inter-disciplinary symposium on the subject.)
- The right of asylum (non-expulsion)—Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights.
- Procedural rights: the right of appeal, respect for the *non bis in idem* principle.
- Conscientious objection: the definition of a common position for eventual examination of the question in the United Nations; possibly the drawing up of a European instrument.

- The problem of detainees and particularly of political detainees; the drawing up of an instrument.
- Equality before the law and the principle of non-discrimination in the exercise of human rights.
- Specification of those social categories of persons who, in order to exercise their full rights, should benefit from measures of implementation of human rights suited to their needs (the case of journalists).
- A system for the protection of human rights through the establishment, at national level, of human rights groups and offices in the administration. At international level, consideration of the possibility of having the Commission or the Secretary General play the part of European *Ombudsman*; education in the spirit of human rights, and the teaching of those principles in schools and universities, particularly in Law Faculties.
- An opportunity to draw up a Human Duties Charter.

In a "Declaration on the Protection of Human Rights in Europe", the Conference pointed out, *inter alia*, that the rights whose protection was claimed by Europeans were now more numerous, and in certain respects different; that the means of protection used in the past no longer corresponded in all cases to the needs of the groups and social categories into which the members of the national community were divided, and that it was necessary to take account of those developments for the purposes of national and international legislation, if human rights were not to be isolated from their moral basis, as a result of which the competent organs of the Council of Europe, and in the first place its Consultative Assembly, should prepare a programme for common action on a short-term and medium-term basis. The Conference also considered it necessary that the parliaments of all Member States should have at their disposal procedures permitting them to make sure that the different proposals and bills submitted to them were in conformity with national and international standards of human rights, and that the effectiveness of the Convention should be reinforced by the incorporation of its provisions into the internal law of the Contracting States, in order that the human rights which it guaranteed might be invoked as of right in national courts.

MODERN IDENTIFICATION METHODS AT THE SERVICE OF THE RED CROSS

The Red Cross is concerned with improving identification systems for medical aircraft, bearing in mind the modern methods of detection used by armed forces. Its efforts in this sector were encouraged by government experts attending the Conference held in Geneva in May and June 1971.¹

The ICRC was asked to consult intergovernmental organizations specialized in the subject, including the International Electrotechnical Commission which published an article in the matter in its Bulletin (Geneva, No. 17) and which we feel it would be useful to reproduce.

For over a century the well known emblem of a red cross (or a red crescent or red lion and sun) on a white background has been internationally recognized as identifying a vehicle used for the transport of the wounded or medical supplies. As in many other fields, the advance of technology has changed the concept of identification and the use of modern weapons means that visual procedures no longer provide sufficient protection. Modern defence systems are designed to cope with supersonic aircraft flying at great heights, and once an aircraft has been detected by ground surveillance radars, if the correct identification signal is not received, a missile is likely to be fired without further ado.

In accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the protection of medical missions is dependent on the agreement of a flight plan—altitude, route and time—for the aircraft between the belligerent parties, but the obligation to negotiate with all the parties involved—sometimes many—can effectively block the use of aircraft for medical missions.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), conscious of the fact that the strict observance of the 1949 Conventions without some additional form of identification rendered the use of aircraft for medical missions difficult, recently convened a meeting of experts to formulate proposals for means of supple-

¹ See *International Review*, July 1971

menting the flight plan system and red cross markings with luminous and radio signals. These proposals are to be submitted to a diplomatic conference for international agreement by Governments.

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) was asked if it could help the ICRC to find an expert who could give advice in formulating the technical solution to be proposed. Thanks to the assistance of the Swedish Electrotechnical Committee, it was possible to find an electronics expert who had not only experience as a ground controller but who was also a pilot.

Several means of identification are possible; for example, instructions can be given for the aircraft to carry out specific movements which can be easily observed by a radar operator, but this method again requires time and ground-to-air contacts.

Secondary surveillance radar (S.S.R.) used in both civilian and military control systems would be another way. In this system the aircraft is equipped with a transponder which sends identification signals to the ground station when interrogated. The principle shortcoming of S.S.R. in this context is its reliance on expensive and relatively scarce equipment which may not necessarily be found in areas where military operations are in progress.

On the other hand, in contrast to the S.S.R., primary radar is used on a wide geographical basis. A means of identifying the medical aircraft on the ground or airborne radar operator's Plan Position Indicator (P.P.I.) display would therefore provide a practical method.

The difficulties lie in "labelling" the medical aircraft on the visual P.P.I. display or on a data processed read-out without interfering in any way with the operational efficiency of the primary radar. There is the risk that if the "labelling" is too broad, an attack could be launched by aircraft obscured for the primary radar by the trace of the "label". A non negligible difficulty is that primary radar frequencies are usually a closely guarded secret and may deliberately be varied to avoid jamming.

The suggestion made by the IEC expert was to use thin-film electronic techniques to design a sealed "black-box" on the medical aircraft. The receiver in the "black-box" would auto-

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matically sweep the frequency band used for the primary radars in the area. On the detection of a primary radar signal of any frequency, the device would lock onto that frequency and automatically transmit a coded identification signal. For example—the letters “C.R.” (*Croix-Rouge*) could be sent in morse code which would appear on the P.P.I. display well separated from, but associated with, the image of the medical aircraft. As the box could be sealed under neutral supervision and no external indications would appear, the use of the device should not constitute a military risk.

The solution proposed by the expert found by the IEC may or may not be adopted finally, but the IEC has been able to make a tangible contribution to the humanitarian work of the International Committee of the Red Cross, by proposing a solution that is as up-to-date as the problem.

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

D. G. TSIROPINAS:
" LA NOUVELLE DEVISE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE " ¹

This pamphlet bears as a subtitle the words "*Per humanitatem ad pacem*" (Through humanity to peace). The author, Dimitri G. Tsiropinas, a member of the Central Board of the Hellenic Red Cross, undertakes to analyse the events which determined what he calls " a new orientation of the humanitarian mission of the Red Cross ". And that orientation, the moral factors of which he discusses with convincing force, caused the Red Cross movement to " complete its initial motto, *Inter arma caritas*, by a parallel motto embodying the new Red Cross tendencies: *Per humanitatem ad pacem* ".

It is not the purpose of the Red Cross to concern itself with the political organization of peace; yet its contribution " should aim above all at cultivating and promoting a humanitarian spirit between peoples ". There is a general wish to reach a state of peace, but to fulfil that wish everyone must take part in the task of helping to create a moral climate more favourable to community life. And that means that the humanitarian feelings of individuals are instilled and encouraged, for an awareness of one's true duties implies " a feeling of love for others, an altruistic and philanthropic feeling, and hence a humanitarian feeling ".

Here we have a broader and more positive description of the concept of peace, considered as the result of creative efforts to establish genuine harmony in human relationships. It therefore demands of one and all a humanitarian struggle since humanity is the means to achieve the final aim which the author evokes in the following passage, which shows how noble is his purpose:

" It amounts to saying that, if men became aware of their obligations and their responsibilities towards their fellow-men, in

¹ Extract from the second volume of the records of the First International Humanitarian Symposium held at Delphi in 1969. Athens, 1971, 20 p.

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a spirit of mutual understanding, justice and humanitarian love, armed combat and wars would no longer have any *raison d'être*. But for that to come about, it would be necessary, on the one hand, for the strong to be aware of the duty of moral and material solidarity with others and to give the weak a possibility of improving their living conditions; and, on the other hand, for the weak, aware of the duty of self-respect and responsibility towards their own dignity, to contribute, within their small means, to improving their condition and thus diminishing the gap between themselves and the strong.

Harmony in human society, and hence peace in the broad acceptation of the word, depends on the humanization of social relations, in every field of communal life ”.

J.-G. L.

The Nurse and Health Education, by Ruth E. Grout and Julia D. Watkins,
International Nursing Review, Basle 1971, No. 3.

... As a nurse engages in health education activities she is constantly concerned with what is being accomplished. On the one hand, she hopes for evidence that the teaching-learning experiences are bringing about the desired changes in health behaviour. On the other hand, she wants assurance that she is following sound principles of education and is employing educational procedures which will contribute to the desired results. Both approaches to evaluation are important and both need to be used in on-going health education endeavours.

Evaluation should be built into a health education activity from its very beginning and continue periodically throughout the relationship. Whenever feasible, it should be a joint undertaking of the nurse and the individuals or groups with whom she is working. The initial stages of a teaching-learning situation, in which the participants state, define, and clarify problems and establish objectives, provide not only the foundations for determining how to proceed with the educational activities themselves but also the bases for evaluation.

As a teaching-learning situation progresses, the nurse and the individual she is counselling, or the group she is teaching, need to pause now and then to consider what has been accomplished so far and what more

needs to be done. Such periodic stock-taking can instill a sense of progress and encourage further movement toward goals. At times it may result in a shifting of goals and of steps leading to them.

In her efforts at evaluation, a nurse cannot always find clear evidence of progress or of achievements attributable to her teaching. Effects of educational activities are often not readily discernible. Sometimes this is because the nurse is not on hand when the learner has a chance to put into practice what he has learned. Sometimes a number of forces contribute to a change in behaviour so that a nurse cannot know whether her particular efforts have had an effect. Moreover, in many people's lives changes come slowly and are cumulative, often extending over many years. Nevertheless, through observation and listening, through interviews and conferences, through records and reports, and in informal daily contacts with patients and their families and friends, a nurse can learn much that will throw light on the effectiveness of her teaching in terms of progress toward reaching objectives. Then, too, through such contacts she can encourage self-evaluation on the part of the learners.

The second approach to evaluation, that is, examining the educational efforts themselves, can be very helpful to a nurse who is concerned with improving her teaching. Though no attempt is made here to set up criteria for such evaluation, it is suggested that points discussed in previous sections of this paper may provide useful guides. If a nurse bases her teaching on needs, if she involves the participants in defining needs and determining objectives, if she creates a favourable climate for learning and selects methods of instruction that are appropriate for objectives, if she carries on these and other practices according to best known principles of education, then it can be assumed that her effectiveness is likely to be greater than were she to follow traditional patterns of teaching with emphasis primarily on transmission of knowledge.

EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

ART. 1. — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.¹

ART. 2. — As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be "Inter arma caritas".

ART. 4. — The special role of the ICRC shall be:

- (a) to maintain the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross, namely: impartiality, action independent of any racial, political, religious or economic considerations, the universality of the Red Cross and the equality of the National Red Cross Societies;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition;

¹ The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term "National Red Cross Societies" includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties;
- (e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities;
- (f) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;
- (g) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its role as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any questions requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. The number of members may not exceed twenty-five.



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- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, *Kabul*.
- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga e Barrikadave, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA — Central Committee of the Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINA — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yri-goyen 2068, *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Guss-hausstrasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna IV*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98 Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels 5*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simón Bolívar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz*.
- BOTSWANA — Botswana Red Cross Society, Independence Avenue, P.O. Box 485, *Gaborone*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça Cruz Vermelha 12 zc/86, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S. S. Biruzov, *Sofia*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42 Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 324, *Bujumbura*.
- CAMEROON — Central Committee of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street, East, *Toronto 284 (Ontario)*.
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106 Dharma-pala Mawatha, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa María 0150, Correo 21, Casilla 246V., *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22 Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65, Apartado nacional 1110, *Bogotá D.E.*
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Calle 23 201 esq. N. Vedado, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague I*.
- DAHOMEY — Red Cross Society of Dahomey, P.O. Box 1, *Porto Novo*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Ny Vestergade 17, *Copenhagen K*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Juan Enrique Dunant, Ensanche Miraflores, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia 118, *Quito*.
- EGYPT (Arab Republic of) — Egyptian Red Crescent Society, 34 rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- EL SALVADOR — El Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente 21, *San Salvador*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Red Cross Road No. 1, P.O. Box 195, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, Box 14168, *Helsinki 14*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17 rue Quentin Bauchart, *Paris (8^e)*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, Dx 801 *Dresden 1*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300, *Bonn 1*, Postfach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3^a Calle 8-40, Zona 1, *Guatemala C.A.*
- GUYANA — Guyana Red Cross, P.O. Box 351, Eve Leary, *Georgetown*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, Place des Nations Unies, B.P. 1337, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant 516, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Øldugøtu 4, Post Box 872, *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Djalán Abdulmuhs 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 16 Merrion Square, *Dublin 2*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12 via Toscana, *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAMAICA — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo 105*.
- JORDAN — Jordan National Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 10 001, *Amman*.
- KENYA — Kenya Red Cross Society, St Johns Gate, P.O. Box 712, *Nairobi*.
- KHMER REPUBLIC — Khmer Red Cross, 17 Vithei Croix-Rouge khmère, P.O.B. 94, *Phnom-Penh*.
- KOREA (Democratic People's Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Donk, *Seoul*.
- KUWAIT — Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1359, *Kuwait*.

ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

- LAOS — Lao Red Cross, P.B. 650, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.
- LESOTHO — Lesotho Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 366, *Maseru*.
- LIBERIA — Liberian National Red Cross, National Headquarters, 13th Street-Sinkor, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN — Liechtenstein Red Cross, FL-9490 *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBOURG — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 1806, *Luxembourg*.
- MADAGASCAR — Red Cross Society of Madagascar, rue Clémenceau, P.O. Box 1168, *Tananarive*.
- MALAWI — Malawi Red Cross, Hall Road, Box 247, *Blantyre*.
- MALAYSIA — Malaysian Red Cross Society, 519 Jalan Belfield, *Kuala Lumpur*.
- MALI — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, route de Koulikora, *Bamako*.
- MEXICO — Mexican Red Cross, Avenida Ejército Nacional n° 1032, *México 10, D.F.*
- MONACO — Red Cross of Monaco, 27 boul. de Suisse, *Monte Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan Bator*.
- MOROCCO — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Benzakour, B.P. 189, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tripureswar, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- NETHERLANDS — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND — New Zealand Red Cross, 61 Dixon Street, P.O.B. 6073, *Wellington C.2*.
- NICARAGUA — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Noroeste 305, *Managua, D.N.*
- NIGER — Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 386, *Niamey*.
- NIGERIA — Nigerian Red Cross Society, Eko Akete Close, off St. Gregory Rd., Onikan, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN — Pakistan Red Cross, Dr Dawood Pota Road, *Karachi 4*.
- PANAMA — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado 668, Zona 1, *Panamá*.
- PARAGUAY — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas 33, *Asunción*.
- PERU — Peruvian Red Cross, Jirón Chancay 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES — Philippine National Red Cross, 860 United Nations Avenue, P.O.B. 280, *Manila D-406*.
- POLAND — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL — Portuguese Red Cross, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon 3*.
- RUMANIA — Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Rumania, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, *Bucarest*.
- SAN MARINO — San Marino Red Cross, Palais gouvernemental, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL — Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bld. Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SOMALI REPUBLIC — Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 937, *Mogadishu*.
- SOUTH AFRICA — South African Red Cross, Cor. Kruis & Market Streets, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid 10*.
- SUDAN — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWEDEN — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, 10440, *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, B.P. 2699, *3001 Berne*.
- SYRIA — Syrian Red Crescent, Bd Mahdi Ben Barake, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA — Tanganyika Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO — Togolese Red Cross Society, 51, rue Boko Soga, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, 105, Woodford Street, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain*.
- TUNISIA — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19 rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UGANDA — Uganda Red Cross, Nabunya Road, P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- UPPER VOLTA — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- URUGUAY — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A. — American National Red Cross, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington 6, D.C.*
- U.S.S.R. — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Tcheremushki, J. Tcheremushkinskiy proezd 5, *Moscow W-36*.
- VENEZUELA — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68 rue Bà-Triệu, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic) — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201 đường Hồng-Thập-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.
- ZAIRE (Republic of) — Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire, 41 av. Valcke, P.O. Box 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- ZAMBIA — Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R.W.1., *Ridgeway, Lusaka*.